

Jan. 5.

LUNENBURG FISHING SEASON.

Best for Decade With Only One Loss of Life.

The year 1909 will go down into Lunenburg, N. S., history as the best year in the first decade of the 20th century in the fishing business. The catch was a large one, the prices were good, no vessels were lost while engaged in the fishing business and the only regrettable feature was the drowning of one man. Quick sales were found for almost all the catch, and the fishermen have secured the benefits of their labor several weeks earlier than in former years. One of the largest dealers in town says that there is only about 7,000 quintals on hand unsold at present as compared with from 60,000 to 80,000 other years. He was at a loss how to account for it except that the shortage in Labrador and northern Newfoundland might have had something to do with it. Another reason was that at the opening of the season it was thought the catch would be a light one, which would no doubt influence an early demand. The total fleet engaged during the year consisted of 161 vessels, the majority of which were owned in Lunenburg. Not only were line fish plentiful, but herring appeared on the coast in large numbers early in the season and remained late, in fact some were being taken on Christmas day. They sold at fair prices. The prices for cured fish are about one dollar in excess of last year, but they are a little less than in 1907, when the catch was only about half that of this year. Prospects are excellent for the coming season; about 10 new vessels will be added to the fleet owned in the town and several others in the county.

During the year only one vessel met with disaster during the fishing season, and that was but a partial loss. This vessel was the Montana, which struck a shoal off the Thrum Cap, in Halifax Harbor. One man only was lost, Fraser Creek, one of the crew of sch. Gladys C. Smith, who was drowned by the upsetting of a dory in May. Four fishing vessels were built during the year, the Hawanee, the Revenue, Frank H. Adams and John B. Young.

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ONE ARRIVAL WITH POLLOCK.

Market Boats Which Went Out Yesterday Returned.

The only fishing arrival at this port today is sch. Emily Sears, which came in shortly before noon with 7000 pounds of pollock, although some of the off-shore fleet were looked for. Some of the shore boats ran off yesterday, but came back again this morning, as there was no chance to do any fishing.

The boats which came in yesterday afternoon, having gone out the afternoon before, looked like small icebergs as they came up the harbor, being iced up from waterline to high above the shear poles. Schs. Rebecca and Hope looked as though they had just come from inside the Arctic circle.

This noon sch. Indiana was towed down from Boston with her cargo of salt herring, with which she arrived at the latter port a few days ago from Bay of Islands, N. F.

The arrivals in detail are as follows:

Today's Arrivals.

Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, shore.
Sch. Hope, shore.
Sch. Rebecca, shore.
Sch. Indiana, via Boston.
Sch. Rebecca, shore.
Sch. Flora S. Nickerson, shore.
Sch. Emily Sears, shore, 7000 pounds pollock.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Juno, halibuting.
Sch. Lillian, haddocking.
Sch. Kineo, halibuting.
Sch. Seaconnet, shore.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.
Sch. Gladys and Nellie, shore.
Sch. Rose Standish, shore.
Sch. Maud S. Silva, shore.
Sch. Joseph H. Cromwell, shore.

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Today's Fish Market.

Fresh halibut, 14 cts. per lb. for white and 11 cts. per lb. for gray.

Board of trade prices:

Large drift Georges cod, \$3.60 per cwt.; medium cod, \$3.25.

Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.

Large salt handline Georges cod, large, \$3.75; mediums, \$3.25.

Dory handline salt cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$3.

Eastern drift salt cod, large, \$3.25 per cwt.; medium, \$3.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.

Salt pollock, \$1 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1; salt hake, \$1.

Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.70; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.65 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 65 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, 60 cts.

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FEW HERRING AT FORTUNE BAY.

Cargo of Frozen Fish From Maine at Boston.

Reliable advices from Connaigie Bay, N. F., state that there are no herring there and also that there are but few herring at Fortune Bay, and what there are are about the same run as the Bonne Bay fish.

Brought Frozen Herring From Maine.

A little 60-foot auxiliary schooner with the name Hazel Leah on her bow was an object of curiosity at Boston yesterday morning. The little schooner arrived there Tuesday night well coated with ice, and with her deck, which was protected only by a two-inch rail against the water, thickly covered with ice and everything on deck obscured. The schooner had come from Castine, Me., with a cargo of 40,000 pounds of frozen herring, consigned to John Nagle & Co., for bait. Capt. Stewart and the two men who form his crew left Castine last Thursday, and ran up here through the storms, assisted by the auxiliary engine, by the aid of which he was able to make six knots an hour. The craft was in this port Monday night for harbor.

News From the Herring Fleet.

Schs. Hazel R. Hines and Corsair are on the way home from Bay of Islands with cargoes of salt herring.

Sch. James A. Garfield arrived at Louisburg, C. B., Monday, bound for Bay of Islands, N. F.

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BOSTON FISH MARKET DULL

Although But Ten Arrivals Are In Port.

Although there are but few arrivals at T wharf this morning, the market there is dull and there is no life to the demand for fish. Haddock opened at from \$2.65 to \$3 and large cod at \$3 and \$4. Pollock held at \$2.50 and hake started in at \$2 to \$4.

The steam trawler Spray has another of her good trips, 65,000 pounds, all haddock and 15,000 pounds of them are scrod.

Sch. Esperanto, from the eastward, has 55,000 pounds and sch. Gladys and Nellie, from her maiden trip, has a nice catch, 18,000 pounds. Sch. Mary T. Fallon of the market fleet, has an unusually big catch, 35,000 pounds, mostly haddock. The other shore boat have fair catches.

The dock had its first lot of shore frozen herring this morning when the little sch. Hazel Leah, from Castine,

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Me., brought up 40,000 pounds for John Nagle & Co. They will sell for bait.

The receipts in detail are:

Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Florida, 1000 haddock, 9000 cod.
Sch. Elva L. Spurling, 8500 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Metamora, 7000 haddock, 7000 cod, 2000 hake, 2000 cusk, 3000 pollock.
Steamer Spray, 65,000 haddock 1000 cod.

Sch. Mary T. Fallon, 30,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Esperanto, 35,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 6000 cusk, 4000 pollock.

Sch. Gladys and Nellie, 7000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake, 7000 pollock.

Sch. Rose Standish, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 pollock.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, 7000 haddock, 1500 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Hazel Leah, Maine coast, frozen herring.

Haddock, \$2.65 to \$3 per cwt.; large cod, \$3 to \$4; market cod, \$2.75 to \$3.50; hake, \$2 to \$4; pollock, \$2.50.

Steamer Spray Badly Iced Up.

Presenting a ghostly appearance, the steam trawler Spray made her way into the T wharf basin yesterday afternoon, weighted down by hundreds of tons of ice. She met the rough nor'wester in the bay, and spray dashed high above her superstructure, encrusting the funnel with ice. The sides and decks were covered to the depth of several inches. Even the boats were frozen solidly, and in the event of it becoming necessary to use them hurriedly, the crew would have received a serious setback.

Getting Mackerel at Florida.

Fishermen at West Palm Beach, Fla., have been making some big hauls of mackerel. One catch last week consisted of 60,000 pounds. W. C. Crocker and Wilson Godfrey of the Indian River and Lake Worth Fish Co. at Fort Pierce, are at West Palm Beach, taking charge of the mackerel.

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FISH ARRIVALS STILL SCARCE.

Salt Herring Fare of Sch. Indiana On the Market.

Dull music still continues here in the fish line, the arrivals being few and not large. It is the usual mid-winter dullness, however, and is expected.

There were no arrivals this morning, but yesterday afternoon sloop Diana landed 1000 weight of haddock at the Fort. Toward evening sch. Etta Mildred came in from an eastern deck handline trip with a nice catch, 40,000 pounds of salt cod and 5000 pounds of fresh cod. Bad weather and the hard usage the craft received put her out of a big fare in a short time.

Sch. Indiana, which brought her fare of salt herring down from Boston, will put the trip on the market here. The cargo was sold to Boston to arrive, but there was a disagreement on price, so Capt. Malloch clapped his hatches on and came here to dispose of the trip.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Today's Receipts.

Sloop Diana, shore, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Etta Mildred, eastern deck handlining, 40,000 lbs. salt cod, 5000 lbs. fresh cod.

Sch. Joseph H. Cromwell, shore.

Sch. Ralph Russell, shore.

Sch. Flayilla, shore.

Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, shore.

Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.

Sch. Flora S. Nickerson, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Rose Standish, Boston.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, Boston.

Today's Fish Market.

Fresh halibut, 14 cts. per lb. for white and 11 cts. per lb. for gray.

Board of trade prices:

Large drift Georges cod, \$3.60 per cwt.; medium cod, \$3.25.

Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.

Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.

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Large salt handline Georges cod, large, \$3.75; mediums, \$3.25.
Dory handline salt cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$3.
Eastern drift salt cod, large, \$3.25 per cwt.; medium, \$3.
Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.
Salt pollock, \$1 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1; salt hake, \$1.
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.70; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.65 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 65 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, 60 cts.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Patriot was at Liverpool, N. S., on Monday.

Portland Fish Notes.

But few fish arrivals were reported Tuesday, the rough weather outside preventing any attempt at setting trawls. The only fare of any size landed was from sch. Albert D. Willard, which came into port about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning in the midst of a howling gale, with reefed sails, and decks flooded with water. The vessel was badly iced up and her jibs were frozen so stiff that not until nightfall were the crew able to get them in shape.

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Want Cod Traps Prohibited.

The Bay of Islands, N. F., Western Star says: "A petition signed by the fishermen in this neighborhood, will be presented to the House of Assembly at the next session of the legislature, asking for a repeal of the fishery regulations, prohibiting the use of cod traps in Port au Port Bay. Every summer, with recurring regularity, large schools of codfish resort the waters of this bay, but, being glutted with bait, the most persistent use of the handline or trawls fails to produce any returns worth while. Under these circumstances, trapping is the only effective means whereby our fishermen may expect to share in the bountiful harvest that Providence annually sends to these shores. It is evident even to the casual observer that on the unrestricted prosecution of the codfishery depends the existence of these people of this part of the district as a fishing community."

Southern Fishery Notes.

Red snapper from Galveston are now shipped as far north as Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo., and an equal distance to the East and West. Most of the stock is sent out by the Gulf Fisheries Co., which operates a large fleet of fishing smacks. Some days large quantities of fish arrive and at other times only one or two smacks a week.

Will Increase Fleet.

The Independent Fish Company of Seattle, composed largely of Gloucester fishermen, will increase its fleet in the spring by three power schooners 130 feet long each and to be fitted out in the best possible manner for the fishing business.—New York Marine Journal.

Portland Fish Notes.

Wednesday's arrivals, sloop Pantoset, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish, schs. Edmund F. Black and Eva and Mildred.

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Pensacola Fish Notes.

Pensacola, Fla., fishing companies are doing well at this time of the year. E. E. Saunders & Co. had 81,000 pounds of red snappers one day recently. This meant over 40 solid tons. As the fish were being unloaded it was noticed that they were even larger than the general average for this time of the year. The large receipts were fortunate coming at a time when the demand was very heavy. Most of the stock was sent to the north and west. The arrivals and their catches were: Albert Geiger, 14,000 pounds; Priscilla, 22,000 pounds; Cavalier, 18,000 pounds, and Lettie G. Howard, 27,000 pounds. The Warren Fish Co. of Pensacola, had one smack in. The preceding day the smack Favorite, Capt. Neilsen, arrived with 14,000 pounds of red snappers and 2000 pounds of groupers. The crew reported exceedingly bad weather up from the snapper banks.

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SALT FISH BUSINESS.

Leading New York Dealer Claims Increased Demand Should Be Created.

The Fishing Gazette has the following resume of the year's salt fish business: "As the year closes, and one looks back, the salt fish trade is somewhat disappointing, because the supply has not been above the average; in fact, considerably below, and the prices realized (when compared with the other food stuffs, such as meats, and products of the soil), are very low.

With the price of sea foods, in the way of cured fish, much lower than other foods, it obviously makes them more economical; and salt fish are certainly wholesome, nutritious and desirable to the the average man.

"After considering the foregoing," to quote a leading dealer, "one must come to the conclusion that it is the demand that needs a tonic, a stimulant; and it would seem that it is necessary for the handlers of salt fish to push and present their article to distributors and consumers in a more attractive manner; otherwise salt fish will be forgotten more and more."

The supplies of salt fish the past season have been largely confined to the oldest and regular handlers so that the dealers have little cause to complain except that the people seem to be getting out of the way of eating a food product that is desirable and very economical."

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Norwegian Herring Fishery.

The output of Norwegian herring for the year 1909 is estimated at 1,000,000 barrels salt, and about the same quantity shipped fresh to Sweden, Germany, Great Britain, Denmark and other countries. Mowinkel & Co. of Bergen, general commission merchants, are leading factors in this great trade.

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FEW FARES BUT LOW PRICES.

Boston Fresh Fish Market In a Stagnant Condition.

The wharf reports only five fish fares there since last report, two of these coming in yesterday. Notwithstanding the light receipts the market is very dull, the dealers not being at all anxious about taking any fish. Prices are lower than for some time, with haddock at \$2.65, large cod 10 cents better and markets at even \$2.00.

Save one of the netters over from Plymouth, all the arrivals are from the southwest part of Georges and have fares ranging from 36,000 to 52,000 pounds each.

The receipts in detail are:

Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Conqueror, 38,000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. Thomas S. Gorton, 35,000 haddock, 8000 cod.
Sch. Gertrude, 24,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 2000 pollock.
Sch. Lizzie M. Stanley, 50,000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. Priscilla, 7000 cod.
Haddock, \$2.65 to \$3 per cwt.; large cod, \$2.75; market cod, \$2.

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Sch. Patriot at Liverpool, N. S.

Advices from our Liverpool, N. S., correspondent states that the eastern deckhandliner Patriot, Capt. Thomas White, of this port, put in at the former port Monday for water. Capt. White reports the recent gales very heavy on the banks, but the craft had ridden them out all right. He hailed for 25,000 pounds of salt cod.

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A SINGLE MARKET BOAT.

Sum Total of Fishing Arrivals at This Port.

This a damp, dark, disagreeable morning, with the harbor so full of fog, dense enough to almost admit of cutting out in junks. There are no arrivals and the shore boats remain in port.

Yesterday, the market fisherman, Mary Edith, landed 3000 pounds of fresh fish and one craft shipped a small fare to Boston. Some of the boats which had a set a few days ago, may take out what few fish they have today, while others hang on, try to get a set Sunday and make a Monday market at Boston.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Mary Edith, shore, 3000 fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Athena, shore.
Sch. Joseph H. Cromwell, shore.
Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, shore.
Sch. Rebecca, shore.
Sch. Ralph Russell, pollocking.

Today's Fish Market.

Fresh halibut, 14 cts. per lb. for white and 11 cts. per lb. for gray.

Board of trade prices:

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Large salt handline Georges cod, large, \$3.75; mediums, \$3.25.
Dory handline salt cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$3.
Eastern drift salt cod, large, \$3.25 per cwt.; medium, \$3.
Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.
Salt pollock, \$1 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1; salt hake, \$1.
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.70; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.65 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 65 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, 60 cts.

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Saved 74,000 Pounds of Fish.

Capt. Reuben Cameron, who went to Canso, N. S., in the interest of the Gloucester Mutual Fishing Insurance Company, to look after the wrecked schooner Dora A. Lawson, arrived home last night. The craft is a total loss, but Capt. Cameron succeeded in saving 74,000 pounds of her fare of salt cod.

The hull still lies on the island where the vessel struck, but Capt. Cameron sold the fittings.

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Portland Fish Notes.

But two fish arrivals were reported Wednesday, sch. Robert and Carr came in with 12,000 pounds and sch. Gladys with 1000. The conditions outside are far from favorable for it has been thick for two days.